

## FILING A CLAIM

### 1. Introduction

Government Code (GC) Sections 17500 through 17617 provide for the reimbursement of costs incurred by school districts (SD) for mandated cost programs as a result of any statute enacted after January 1, 1975, or any executive order implementing such statute which mandates a new program or higher level of service of an existing program.

A reimbursement claim is defined in Government Code (GC) Section 17522 as any claim filed with the State Controller's Office (SCO) by a SD for reimbursement of costs incurred for which an appropriation is made for the purpose of paying the claim. Actual claims for the 2009-10 fiscal year, will be accepted without penalty if postmarked or delivered on or before **February 15, 2011**. Ongoing reimbursement claims filed after the deadline will be reduced by a late penalty of **10%, not to exceed \$10,000**. Amended claims filed after the filing deadline will be reduced by **10% of the increased amount not to exceed \$10,000** for the total claim. Initial reimbursement claims filed after the filing deadline will be reduced by a late penalty of **10% with no limitation**. Claims filed more than one year after the deadline will not be accepted by the SCO.

A charter school is not eligible to file mandated cost claims under these programs because it is not defined as a school district pursuant to GC Section 17519. Accordingly, charter schools cannot be reimbursed for their costs by filing a claim or through a third party's claim such as a school district or superintendent of schools. The Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted the Charter School III Statement of Decision on May 25, 2006, which stated that a charter school is voluntarily participating in the charter program at issue and that a charter school is not a school district under GC Section 17519 and therefore is not eligible to claim reimbursement under GC Section 17560.

SD's may use the indirect cost rates from the Restricted Indirect Cost Rates for K-12 Local Educational Agencies (LEA's) Five Year Listing issued by the California Department of Education (CDE), School Fiscal Services Division, for the fiscal year of the claim. Since this information is readily available online, there is no need for SD's to file supporting documentation for indirect costs with their claims. Additional information regarding indirect cost rates can be found in Section 2, Filing a Claim, page 10, *Indirect Costs*.

When a program has been reimbursed for three or more years, the Commission may approve the program for inclusion in the State Mandates Apportionment System (SMAS). For programs included in SMAS, the SCO determines the amount of each claimant's entitlement based on an average of three consecutive fiscal years of actual costs adjusted by any changes in the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD). Claimants with an established entitlement receive an annual apportionment adjusted by any changes in the implicit price deflator (IPD) and average daily attendance (ADA). Claimants with an established entitlement no longer need to file claims for that program.

The SCO is authorized to make payments for costs of mandated programs from amounts appropriated by the State Budget Act, by the State Mandates Claims Fund, or by specific legislation. In the event the appropriation is insufficient to pay claims in full, claimants will receive prorated payments in proportion to the dollar amount of approved claims for the program. Balances of prorated payments will be made when supplementary funds become available.

### 2. Electronic Filing: Local Government e-Claims (LGeC)

LGeC enables claimants and their consultants to securely prepare and submit mandated cost claims via the Internet. LGeC uses a series of data input screens to collect the information needed to prepare a claim and provides a Web service so claims can be uploaded in batch files. The system also incorporates an attachment feature so claimants can electronically attach supporting documentation if required.

The LGeC system provides an easy and straightforward approach to the claiming process. Filing claims using LGeC eliminates the manual preparation and submission of paper claims by SD's and the receiving, processing, key entry, verification, and storage of the paper claims by the SCO. LGeC also provides mathematical checks and automated error detection to reduce erroneous and incomplete claims, provides the State with an electronic workflow process, and stores the claims in an electronic format. Making the change from paper claims to electronic claims reduces the manual handling of paper claims and decreases the costs incurred for postage, handling, and storage of claims filed.

In order to use the LGeC system you will need to obtain a user ID and password for each person who will access the LGeC system. To obtain a User ID and password you must file an application with the SCO. The application and instructions are available on the LGeC Web site located at [http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard\\_lgec.html](http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_lgec.html). Complete the application and other documents as requested and mail them to the SCO using the address provided in the instructions. The SCO will process the application within three business days and issue a User ID and password to each applicant.

In addition, you may want to subscribe to an email distribution list to automatically receive timely, comprehensive information regarding mandated cost claims, payments, guidelines, electronic claims, and other news and updates. You also will receive related audit reports and mandate information provided by other state agencies.

You can find more information about LGeC and the email distribution lists at [http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard\\_lgec.html](http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_lgec.html). This Web site provides access to the LGeC system, an application for User ID's and passwords, an instructional guide, frequently asked questions (FAQ's) and additional help files. Questions may be directed to [LRSDAR@sco.ca.gov](mailto:LRSDAR@sco.ca.gov), or you may call the Local Reimbursements Section at (916) 324-5729.

### **3. Types of Claims**

Claimants may file a reimbursement claim for actual mandated costs incurred in the prior fiscal year. An entitlement claim may be filed for the purpose of establishing a base year entitlement amount for mandated programs included in SMAS. A claimant who has established a base year entitlement for a program, would receive an automatic annual payment which is reflective of the current costs for the program.

All claims received by the SCO will be reviewed to verify actual costs. An adjustment of the claim will be made if the amount claimed is determined to be excessive, improper, or unreasonable.

#### **A. Reimbursement Claim**

Initial reimbursement claims are first-time claims for reimbursement of costs for one or more prior fiscal year(s) of a program that was previously unfunded. Claims are due one hundred and twenty days from the date of issuance of the claiming instructions for the program by the SCO. The first statute that appropriates funds for the mandated program will specify the fiscal years for which costs are eligible for reimbursement.

Annual ongoing reimbursement claims must be filed by February 15<sup>th</sup> following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred for the program. Claims for fiscal year 2009-10 will be accepted without late penalty if postmarked or delivered on before February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Claims filed after the deadline will be reduced by a late penalty of 10%, not to exceed \$10,000. However, initial reimbursement claims will be reduced by a late penalty of 10% with no limitation. Amended claims filed after the deadline will be reduced by 10% of the increased amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the claim. Claims filed more than one year after the deadline will not be accepted for reimbursement.

#### **B. Entitlement Claim**

An entitlement claim is defined in GC Section 17522 as any claim filed by SD's with the SCO for the sole purpose of establishing or adjusting a base year entitlement for a mandated cost

program that has been included in SMAS. An entitlement claim should not contain nonrecurring or initial start-up costs. There is no statutory deadline for the filing of entitlement claims. However, these claims should be filed by February 15th, following the third fiscal year used to develop the entitlement claim, to permit an orderly processing of claims. When the claims are approved and a base year entitlement amount is determined, the claimant will receive an apportionment reflective of the program's current year costs.

The automatic apportionment is determined by adjusting the claimant's base year entitlement for changes in the IPD of costs of goods and services to governmental agencies, as determined by the State Department of Finance. For programs approved by the Commission for inclusion in SMAS, the payment for each year succeeding the three year base period is adjusted according to any changes by both the IPD and average daily attendance (ADA).

The SCO will perform this computation for each claimant who has filed claims for three consecutive years. If a claimant has incurred costs for three consecutive years but has not filed a claim in each of those years, the claimant may file an entitlement claim, form FAM-43, to establish a base year entitlement. The form FAM-43 is included in the claiming instructions for SMAS programs. An entitlement claim does not result in the claimant being reimbursed for the costs incurred, but rather entitles the claimant to receive automatic payments from SMAS. Annual apportionments for programs included in the SMAS system are paid on or before November 30th of each year.

#### **4. Minimum Claim Amount**

For initial claims and annual claims filed on or after September 30, 2002, if the total costs for a given year do not exceed \$1,000, no reimbursement will be allowed except as otherwise allowed by GC Section 17564. Combined claims may be filed only when the county office of education (COE) is the fiscal agent for school districts. The COE will determine if the submission of a combined claim is economically feasible and will be responsible for disbursing the funds to each school district. A combined claim must show the individual claim costs for each eligible school district. All subsequent claims based upon the same mandate must only be filed in the combined form unless a school district provides to the COE and to the Controller, at least 180 days prior to the deadline for filing the claim, a written notice of its intent to file a separate claim.

#### **5. Filing Deadline for Claims**

Pursuant to GC Section 17561(d) initial reimbursement claims (first time claims) for reimbursement of costs of a previously unfunded mandated program must be filed within one hundred and twenty days from the date the SCO issues the claiming instructions for the program. When paying a timely filed claim for initial reimbursement, the Controller may withhold twenty percent of the amount of the claim until the claim is audited to verify the actual amount of the mandated costs. Initial reimbursement claims filed after the filing deadline will be reduced by ten percent of the amount that would have been allowed had the claim been timely filed.

The Controller may withhold payment of any late claim for initial reimbursement until the next deadline for funded claims unless sufficient funds are available to pay the claim after all timely filed claims have been paid. All initial reimbursement claims for all fiscal years required to be filed on their initial filing date for a program will be considered as one claim for the purpose of computing any late claim penalty. In no case will a reimbursement claim be paid if submitted more than one year after the filing deadline specified in the Controller's claiming instructions on funded mandates.

Pursuant to GC Section 17560, annual reimbursement claims (recurring claims) for costs incurred during the previous fiscal year must be filed with the SCO and postmarked on or before February 15th following the fiscal year in which costs were incurred. If the annual reimbursement claim is filed after the deadline, but within one year of the deadline, the approved claim must be reduced by a 10% late penalty, not to exceed \$10,000. Amended claims filed after the deadline will be reduced by 10% of the increased amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the total claim. Claims may not be filed more than one year after the deadline.

## 6. Payment of Claims

In order for the SCO to authorize payment of a claim, the Certification of Claim, form FAM-27, must be properly filled out, signed, and dated by the entity's authorized officer. When using the LGeC system, the logon ID and password of the authorized officer is used for the signature and is applied by the LGeC system when the claim is submitted. Pursuant to GC 17561(d), reimbursement claims are paid by October 15 or sixty days after the date the appropriation for the claim is effective, whichever is later. In the event the amount appropriated by the Legislature is insufficient to pay the approved amount in full for a program, claimants will receive a prorated payment in proportion to the amount of approved claims timely filed and on hand at the time of proration.

A claimant is entitled to receive accrued interest at the pooled money investment account rate if the payment was made more than 60 days after the claim filing deadline or the actual date of claim receipt, whichever is later. For an initial claim, interest begins to accrue when the payment is made more than one year after the adoption of the program's statewide cost estimate.

The SCO reports the amounts of insufficient appropriations to the State Department of Finance, the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and the Chairperson of the respective committee in each House of the Legislature, in order to ensure appropriation of these funds in the Budget Act. If these funds cannot be appropriated on a timely basis in the Budget Act, this information is transmitted to the Commission who will include these amounts in its reports to assure that an appropriation sufficient to pay the claims is included in the next local government claims bill or other appropriation bills. Any balances remaining on these claims will be paid when supplementary funds become available.

Unless specified in the statutes, regulations, or P's & G's, the determination of allowable and unallowable costs for mandates is based on the P's & G's adopted by the Commission. The determination of allowable reimbursable mandated costs for unfunded mandates is made by the Commission. The SCO determines allowable reimbursable costs, subject to amendment by the Commission, for mandates funded by special legislation. Allowable costs are those direct and indirect costs, less applicable credits, considered eligible for reimbursement. In order for costs to be allowable and thus eligible for reimbursement, the costs must meet the following general criteria:

1. The cost is necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient administration of the mandate and not a general expense required to carry out the overall responsibilities of government.
2. The cost is allocable to a particular cost objective identified in the P's & G's.
3. The cost is net of any applicable credits that offset or reduce expenses of items allocable to the mandate.

The SCO has identified certain costs that should not be claimed as direct program costs unless specified as reimbursable under the program's P's & G's. These costs include, but are not limited to, subscriptions, depreciation, memberships, conferences, workshops, general education, and travel costs.

## 7. State Mandates Apportionment System (SMAS)

Chapter 1534, Statutes of 1985, established SMAS, a method of paying certain mandated programs as apportionments. This method is utilized whenever a program has been approved for inclusion in SMAS by the Commission.

When a mandated program has been included in SMAS, the SCO will determine a base year entitlement amount for each SD that has submitted reimbursement claims (or entitlement claims) for three consecutive fiscal years. A base year entitlement amount is determined by averaging the approved reimbursement claims (or entitlement claims) for any three consecutive fiscal years. The amounts are first adjusted by any change in the IPD, which is applied separately to each year's costs for the three years that comprise the base period. The base period means the three fiscal years immediately succeeding the Commission's approval.

Each SD with an established base year entitlement for the program will receive automatic annual payments from the SCO reflective of the program's current year costs. The apportionment amount is adjusted annually for any change in the IPD. If the mandated program was included in SMAS after January 1, 1988, the annual apportionment is adjusted for any change in both the IPD and ADA.

In the event a SD has incurred costs for three consecutive fiscal years but did not file a reimbursement claim in one or more of those fiscal years, the SD may file an entitlement claim for each of those missed years to establish a base year entitlement. An entitlement claim means any claim filed by a SD with the SCO for the sole purpose of establishing a base year entitlement. A base year entitlement may not include any nonrecurring or initial start-up costs.

Initial apportionments are made on an individual program basis. After the initial year, all apportionments are made by November 30<sup>th</sup>. The amount to be apportioned is the base year entitlement adjusted by annual changes in the IPD for the cost of goods and services to governmental agencies as determined by the State Department of Finance.

In the event the SD determines that the amount of apportionment does not accurately reflect costs incurred to comply with a mandate, the process of adjusting an established base year entitlement upon which the apportionment is based is set forth in GC Section 17615.8 and requires the approval of the Commission.

The following programs are placed in SMAS:

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>Chapter/Statute</b>	<b>Program Number</b>
Expulsion of Pupil: Transcript Cost	1253/75	91
Immunization Records	1176/77	32

## **8. Direct Costs**

A direct cost is a cost that can be identified specifically with a particular program or activity. Documentation to support direct costs must be kept on hand unless otherwise specified in the claiming instructions and made available to the SCO on request.

It is the responsibility of the claimant to maintain documentation in the form of general and subsidiary ledgers, purchase orders, invoices, contracts, canceled warrants, equipment usage records, land deeds, receipts, employee time sheets, agency travel guidelines, inventory records, and other relevant documents to support claimed costs. The type of documentation necessary for each claim may differ with the type of mandate.

Costs typically classified as direct costs are:

### **(1) Employee Wages, Salaries, and Benefits**

For each of the mandated activities performed, the claimant must list the names of the employees who worked on the mandate, their job classifications, hours worked on the mandate, and rate of pay. The claimant may use a productive hourly rate in-lieu of reporting actual compensation and benefits:

#### **(a) Productive Hourly Rate Options**

A SD may use one of the following methods to compute productive hourly rates:

- Actual annual productive hours for each employee;
- The weighted-average annual productive hours for each job title; or
- 1,800\* annual productive hours for all employees.

If actual annual productive hours or weighted-average annual productive hours for each job title is chosen, the claimant must maintain documentation of how these hours were computed.

\* 1,800 annual productive hours excludes the following employee time:

- Paid holidays;
- Vacation earned;
- Sick leave taken;
- Informal time off;
- Jury duty;
- Military leave taken.

**(b) Compute a Productive Hourly Rate**

1. Compute a productive hourly rate for salaried employees to include actual benefit costs. The methodology for converting a salary to a productive hourly rate is to compute the employee's annual salary and benefits and divide by the annual productive hours.

**Table 1: Productive Hourly Rate, Annual Salary + Benefits Method**

<b>Formula:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
$[(EAS + Benefits) \div APH] = PHR$	EAS = Employee's Annual Salary APH = Annual Productive Hours
$[(\$26,000 + \$8,099) \div 1,800 \text{ hrs}] = 18.94$	PHR = Productive Hourly Rate

- As illustrated in Table 1, if an employee's compensation was \$26,000 and \$8,099 for annual salary and benefits, respectively, using the Salary + Benefits Method, the productive hourly rate would be \$18.94. To convert a biweekly salary to Annual Salary, multiply the biweekly salary by 26. To convert a monthly salary to Annual Salary, multiply the monthly salary by 12. Use the same methodology to convert other salary periods.
2. A claimant may also compute the productive hourly rate by using the Percent of Salary Method.

**Table 2: Productive Hourly Rate, Percent of Salary Method**

Example:		
Step 1: Benefits as a Percent of Salary		Step 2: Productive Hourly Rate
Retirement	15.00 %	<b>Formula:</b> [(EAS x (1 + BR)) ÷ APH] = PHR  [((\$26,000 x (1.3115)) ÷ 1,800 ] = \$18.94
Social Security & Medicare	7.65	
Health & Dental Insurance	5.25	
Workers Compensation	3.25	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31.15 %</b>	
<b>Description:</b>		
EAS = Employee's Annual Salary		APH = Annual Productive Hours
BR = Benefit Rate		PHR = Productive Hourly Rate

- As illustrated in Table 2, both methods produce the same productive hourly rate.

Reimbursement for personnel services includes, but is not limited to, compensation paid for salaries, wages, and employee benefits. Employee benefits include employer's contributions for social security, pension plans, insurance, workers compensation insurance and similar payments. These benefits are eligible for reimbursement as long as they are distributed equitably to all activities. Whether these costs are allowable is based on the following presumptions:

- The amount of compensation is reasonable for the service rendered;
- The compensation paid and benefits received are appropriately authorized by the governing board;
- Amounts charged for personnel services are based on payroll documents that are supported by time and attendance or equivalent records for individual employees;
- The methods used to distribute personnel services should produce an equitable distribution of direct and indirect allowable costs.

For each of the employees included in the claim, the claimant must use reasonable rates and hours in computing the wage cost. If a person of a higher-level position performs an activity which normally would be performed by a lower-level position, reimbursement for time spent is allowable at the average salary range for the lower-level position. The salary rate of the person at a higher-level position may be claimed if it can be shown that it was more cost effective in comparison to the performance by a person at the lower-level position under normal circumstances and conditions. The number of hours charged to an activity should reflect the time expected to complete the activity under normal circumstances and conditions. The numbers of hours in excess of normal expected hours are not reimbursable.

### (c) Calculating an Average Productive Hourly Rate

In those instances where the P's & G's allow a unit as a basis of claiming costs, the direct labor component of the unit cost should be expressed as an average productive hourly rate and can be determined as follows:

**Table 3: Calculating an Average Productive Hourly Rate**

	<u>Time Spent</u>	<u>Productive Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Total Cost by Employee</u>
Employee A	1.25 hrs	\$6.00	\$7.50
Employee B	0.75 hrs	4.50	3.38
Employee C	3.50 hrs	10.00	35.00
Total	5.50 hrs		\$45.88
Average Productive Hourly Rate is $\$45.88 \div 5.50 \text{ hrs.} = \$8.34$			

### (d) Employer's Benefits Contribution

A SD has the option of claiming actual employer's benefit contributions or may compute an average benefit cost for the employee's job classification and claim it as a percentage of direct labor. The same time base should be used for both salary and benefits when computing a percentage. For example, if health and dental insurance payments are made annually, use an annual salary. After the percentage of salary for each benefit is computed, total them.

For example:

<u>Employer's Contribution</u>	<u>% of Salary</u>
Retirement	15.00%
Social Security	7.65%
Health and Dental Insurance	5.25%
Worker's Compensation	0.75%
Total	<u>28.65%</u>

## (2) Materials and Supplies

Only actual expenses can be claimed for materials and supplies, which were acquired and consumed specifically for the purpose of a mandated program. The claimant must list the materials and supplies that were used to perform the mandated activity, the number of units consumed, the cost per unit, and the total dollar amount claimed. Materials and supplies in excess of reasonable quality, quantity, and cost are not reimbursable. Materials and supplies withdrawn from inventory and charged to the mandated activity must be based on a recognized method of pricing, consistently applied. Purchases must be claimed at the actual price after deducting discounts, rebates and allowances received by the SD.

### (a) Calculating a Unit Cost for Materials and Supplies

In those instances where the P's & G's suggest that a unit cost be developed for use as a basis of claiming costs mandated by the State, the materials and supplies component of the unit cost should be expressed as a unit cost of materials and supplies as shown in Table 1 or Table 2:

**Table 1: Calculating a Unit Cost for Materials and Supplies**

<b>Supplies</b>	<u>Cost Per Unit</u>	<u>Amount of Supplies Used Per Activity</u>	<u>Unit Cost of Supplies Per Activity</u>
Paper	0.02	4	\$0.08
Files	0.10	1	0.10
Envelopes	0.03	2	0.06
Photocopies	0.10	4	<u>0.40</u>
			<u>\$0.64</u>

**Table 2: Calculating a Unit Cost for Materials and Supplies**

<b>Supplies</b>	<u>Supplies Used</u>	<u>Unit Cost of Supplies Per Activity</u>
Paper (\$10.00 for 500 sheet ream)	250 Sheets	\$5.00
Files (\$2.50 for box of 25)	10 Folders	1.00
Envelopes (\$3.00 for box of 100)	50 Envelopes	1.50
Photocopies (\$0.05 per copy)	40 Copies	<u>2.00</u>
		<u>\$9.50</u>
If the number of reimbursable instances is 25, then the unit cost of supplies is \$0.38 per reimbursable instance (\$9.50 ÷ 25).		



**(3) Contract Services**

The cost of contract services is allowable if the SD lacks the staff resources or necessary expertise, or it is economically feasible to hire a contractor to perform the mandated activity. The claimant must keep documentation on hand to support the name of the contractor, explain the reason for having to hire a contractor, describe the mandated activities performed, give the dates when the activities were performed, the number of hours spent performing the mandate, the hourly billing rate, and the total cost. The hourly billing rate must not exceed the rate specified in the P's & G's for the mandated program. The contractor's invoice or statement must include an itemized list of costs for activities performed.

**(4) Equipment Rental Costs**

Equipment purchases and leases (with an option to purchase) are not reimbursable as a direct cost unless specifically allowed by the P's & G's for the particular mandate. Equipment rentals used solely for the mandate are reimbursable to the extent that such costs do not exceed the retail purchase price of the equipment plus a finance charge. The claimant must maintain documentation to support the purpose and use of the equipment, the time period for which the equipment was rented and the total cost of the rental. If the equipment is used for purposes other than reimbursable activities, only the pro rata portion of the rental costs can be claimed.

**(5) Capital Outlay**

Capital outlay for land, buildings, equipment, furniture and fixtures may be claimed if the P's & G's specify them as allowable. If they are allowable, the P's & G's for the program will specify a basis for the reimbursement. If the fixed asset or equipment is also used for purposes other than reimbursable activities for a specific mandate, only the pro rata portion of the purchase price used to implement the reimbursable activities can be claimed.

**(6) Travel Expenses**

Travel expenses are normally reimbursable in accordance with travel rules and regulations of the local jurisdiction. For some programs, however, the P's & G's may specify certain limitations on expenses, or that expenses can only be reimbursed in accordance with the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) travel standards. When claiming travel expenses, the claimant must maintain documentation to support the purpose of the trip, the names and addresses of the persons incurring the expense, the date and time of departure and return, a description of each expense claimed, and the cost of transportation, number of private auto miles traveled, and the cost of tolls and parking. Receipts are required for charges over \$10.00.

**9. Indirect Costs**

Indirect costs are: (a) Incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective, and (b) not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefited without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. Indirect costs can originate in the department performing the mandate or in departments that supply the department performing the mandate with goods, services, and facilities. To be allowable, a cost must be allocable to a particular cost objective. Indirect costs must be distributed to benefiting cost objectives on bases which produce an equitable result related to the benefits derived by the mandate.

School District's may use the indirect cost rate from the Restricted Indirect Cost rates for K-12 Local Education Agencies (LEA's) Five Year Listing issued by the California Department of Education (CDE), School Fiscal Services Division, for the fiscal year of costs. The amount of indirect costs the claimant is eligible to claim is computed by multiplying the rate by direct costs.

## 10. Time Study Guidelines

### Background

Two methods are acceptable for documenting employee time charged to mandated cost programs: 1) Actual Time Reporting and 2) Time Study. These methods are described below. Application of time study results is restricted. As explained in the Time Study Results section below, the results may be projected forward a maximum of two years or applied retroactively to initial claims, current-year claims, and late-filed claims, provided certain criteria are met.

### Actual Time Reporting

Each program's P's and G's define reimbursable activities for the mandated cost program. When employees work on multiple activities, a distribution of their salaries or wages must be supported by personnel activity reports or equivalent documentation that meets the following standards:

- They must reflect an after-the-fact distribution of the actual activity of each employee;
- They must account for the total activity for which each employee is compensated;
- They must be prepared at least monthly and must coincide with one or more pay periods; and
- They must be signed by the employee.

Budget estimates or other distribution percentages determined before services are performed do not qualify as support for actual time reporting.

### Time Study

In certain cases, a time study may be used as a substitute for continuous records of actual time spent on multiple activities and/or programs. A time study can be used for an activity when the task is repetitive in nature. Activities that require varying levels of effort are not appropriate for time studies.

### Time Study Plan

The claimant must develop a plan before the time study is conducted. The claimant must retain the time study plan for audit purposes. The plan must identify the following:

- Time periods to be studied - The plan must show that all time periods selected are representative of the fiscal year and that the results can be reasonably projected to approximate actual costs;
- Activities to be studied - The time study must separately identify each reimbursable activity defined in the mandated program's P's and G's. If a reimbursable activity identifies separate and distinct sub-activities, these sub-activities also must be treated as individual activities;

For example, sub-activities (a) and (b) under reimbursable activity (1) of the Agency Fee Arrangements Program relate to salary deduction and payment of fair share and are not separate and distinct activities. It is not necessary to separately study these sub-activities.

- Process used to accomplish each reimbursable activity - Use flowcharts or similar analytical tools and/or written desk procedures to describe the process followed to complete each activity;
- Employee universe - The employee universe used in the time study must include all positions for which salaries and wages are to be allocated by means of the time study;
- Employee sample selection methodology - The plan must show that employees selected are representative of the employee universe and that the results can be reasonably projected to approximate actual costs. In addition, the employee sample size should be proportional to the variation in time spent to perform a task. The sample size should be larger for tasks with significant time variations;
- Time increments to be recorded - The time increments used should be sufficient to recognize the

number of different activities performed and the dynamics of these responsibilities. Very large increments (such as one hour or more) can be used for employees performing only a few functions that change very slowly over time. Small increments (a number of minutes) can be used for employees performing more short-term tasks.

Random-moment sampling is not an acceptable alternative to continuous time records for mandated cost claims. Random-moment sampling techniques are most applicable in situations where employees perform many different types of activities on a variety of programs with small time increments throughout the fiscal year.

### **Time Study Documentation**

Time studies must:

- Be supported by time records that are completed when the activity occurs;
- Report activity on a daily basis;
- Be sufficiently detailed to reflect all mandated activities performed during a specific time period; and
- Coincide with one or more pay periods.

Time records must be signed by the employee and be supported by documentation that validates that the work was actually performed. As with actual time reporting, budget estimates or other distribution percentages determined before services are performed do not qualify as valid time studies.

### **Time Study Results**

Claimants must summarize time study results to show how the time study supports the costs claimed for each activity. Any variation from the procedures identified in the original time study plan must be documented and explained. Current-year costs must be used to prepare a time study. Claimants may project time study results to no more than two subsequent fiscal years. A claimant also may apply time study results retroactively to initial claims, current-year claims, and late-filed claims.

When projecting time study results, the claimant must certify that no significant changes have occurred between years in either (1) the requirements of each mandated program activity; or (2) the processes and procedures used to accomplish the activity. For all years, the claimant must maintain documentation that shows that the mandated activity was actually performed. Time study results used to support claims are subject to the record-keeping requirements for those claims.

## **11. Offsets Against State Mandated Claims**

As noted previously, allowable costs are defined as those direct and indirect costs, less applicable credits, considered eligible for reimbursement. When all or part of the costs of a mandated program are specifically reimbursable from local assistance revenue sources (e.g., state, federal, foundation, etc.), only that portion of any increased cost payable from SD funds is eligible for reimbursement under the provisions of GC Section 17561.

### **A. Example 1:**

As illustrated in Table 5, this example shows how the Offset Against State Mandated Claims is determined for SD receiving block grant revenues not based on a formula allocation. Program costs for each situation equals \$100,000.

**Table 5: Offset Against State Mandates, Example 1**

	<b>Program Costs</b>	<b>Actual Local Assistance Revenues</b>	<b>State Mandated Costs</b>	<b>Offset Against State Mandated Claims</b>	<b>Claimable Mandated Costs</b>
1.	\$100,000	\$95,000	\$2,500	\$-0-	\$2,500
2.	100,000	97,000	2,500	-0-	2,500
3.	100,000	98,000	2,500	500	2,000
4.	100,000	100,000	2,500	2,500	-0-
5.	100,000 *	50,000	2,500	1,250	1,250
6.	100,000 *	49,000	2,500	250	2,250

\* SD's share is \$50,000 of the program cost.

Numbers (1) through (4) in Table 5, show intended funding at 100% from local assistance revenue sources. Numbers (5) and (6) show cost sharing on a 50/50 basis with the district. In numbers (1) through (6), included in the program costs of \$100,000 are state mandated costs of \$2,500. The offset against state mandated claims are the amount of actual local assistance revenues, which exceeds the difference between program costs and state mandated costs. This offset cannot exceed the amount of state mandated costs.

In (1), local assistance revenues were less than expected. Local assistance funding was not in excess of the difference between program costs and state mandated costs. As a result, the offset against state mandated claims is zero and \$2,500 is claimable as mandated costs.

In (4), local assistance revenues were fully realized to cover the entire cost of the program, including the state mandated activity; therefore, the offset against state mandated claims is \$2,500, and claimable cost is \$0.

In (5), the district is sharing 50% of the project cost. Since local assistance revenues of \$50,000 were fully realized, the offset against state mandated claims is \$1,250.

In (6), local assistance revenues were less than the amount expended and the offset against state mandated claims is \$250. Therefore, the claimable mandated costs are \$2,250.

#### **B. Example 2:**

As illustrated in Table 6, this example shows how the offset against state mandated claims is determined for SD's receiving special project funds based on approved actual costs. Local assistance revenues for special projects must be applied proportionately to the approved costs.

**Table 6: Offset Against State Mandates, Example 2**

	<b>Program Costs</b>	<b>Actual Local Assistance Revenues</b>	<b>State Mandated Costs</b>	<b>Offset Against State Mandated Claims</b>	<b>Claimable Mandated Costs</b>
1.	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$-0-
2.	100,000 **	75,000	2,500	1,875	625
3.	100,000 **	45,000	1,500	1,125	375

\*\* SD's share is \$25,000 of the program cost.

In (2), the entire program cost was approved. Since the local assistance revenue source covers 75% of the program cost, it also proportionately covered 75% of the \$2,500 state mandated costs, or \$1,875.

If in (3) local assistance revenues are less than the amount expected because only \$60,000 of the \$100,000 program costs were determined to be valid by the contracting agency, then a proportionate share of state mandated costs is likewise reduced to \$1,500. The offset against state mandated claims is \$1,125. Therefore, the claimable mandated costs are \$375.

### **Federal and State Funding Sources**

State school fund apportionments and federal aid for education, which are based on ADA and are part of the general system of financing public schools as well as block grants which do not provide for specific reimbursement of costs (i.e. allocation formulas not tied to expenditures), should not be included as reimbursements from local assistance revenue sources.

## **12. Notice of Claim Adjustment**

All claims submitted to the SCO are reviewed to determine if the claim was prepared in accordance with the claiming instructions. Claimants will receive a *Notice of Claim Adjustment* detailing any adjustment made by the SCO.

## **13. Audit of Costs**

Pursuant to GC Section 17558.5, Subdivision (b), the SCO may conduct a field review of any claim after it has been submitted to determine if costs are related to the mandate, are reasonable and not excessive, and the claim was prepared in accordance with the SCO's claiming instructions and the

P's & G's adopted by the Commission. If any adjustments are made to a claim, a Notice of Claim Adjustment specifying the claim activity adjusted, the amount adjusted, and the reason for the adjustment, will be mailed within thirty days after payment of the claim.

## **14. Source Documents**

Costs must be traceable and supported by source documents that show the validity of such costs, when they were incurred, and their relationship to the reimbursable activities. A source document is created at or near the same time the actual cost was incurred for the event or activity in question. Source documents may include, but are not limited to, employee records, or time logs, sign-in sheets, invoices, and receipts.

Evidence corroborating the source documents may include, but is not limited to, worksheets, cost allocation reports (system generated), purchase orders, contracts, agendas, training packets, and declarations. Declarations must include a certification stating: "I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct" and must further comply with the requirements of Code of Civil Procedure Section 2015.5. Evidence corroborating the source documents may include data relevant to the reimbursable activities otherwise in compliance with local, state, and federal government requirements. However, these documents cannot be substituted for source documents.

## **15. Claim Forms and Instructions**

Unless you are filing electronically, a claimant may submit a computer generated report in substitution for Form-1 and Form-2, provided the format of the report and data fields contained within the report are identical to the claim forms included with these instructions. The claim forms provided with these instructions should be duplicated or printed from SCO's Web site and used by the claimant to file reimbursement claims. The SCO will revise the manual and claim forms as necessary.

### **A. Form-2, Activity Cost Detail**

This form is used to segregate the direct costs by claim activity. In some mandates, specific reimbursable activities have been identified for each activity. The expenses reported on this form must be supported by the official financial records of the claimant. All documents used to

support the reimbursable activities must be retained by the claimant unless required to be submitted with the claim and must be made available to the SCO on request.

#### **B. Form-1, Claim Summary**

This form is used to summarize direct costs by activity and compute allowable indirect costs for the mandate. The direct costs summarized on this form are derived from Form-2 and are carried forward to form FAM-27.

#### **C. Form FAM-27, Claim for Payment**

This form contains a certification that must be signed by an authorized officer of the SD's. All applicable information from Form-1 must be carried forward onto this form in order for the SCO to process the claim for payment. An original and one copy of the FAM-27 are required.

Submit a signed original and one copy of form FAM-27, Claim for Payment. **To expedite the payment process, please sign the FAM-27 with blue ink, and attach a copy of the form FAM-27 to the top of the claim package.**

Use the following mailing addresses:

If delivered by  
U.S. Postal Service:

Office of the State Controller  
Attn.: Local Reimbursements Section  
Division of Accounting and Reporting  
P. O. Box 942850  
Sacramento, CA 94250

If delivered by  
Other delivery services:

Office of the State Controller  
Attn: Local Reimbursements Section  
Division of Accounting and Reporting  
3301 C Street, Suite 700  
Sacramento, CA 95816

### **16. Retention of Claiming Instructions**

The revised claiming instructions in this package have been arranged in alphabetical order by program name. This Manual should be retained for future reference, and the forms should be duplicated to meet your filing requirements. Annually, new or revised forms, instructions, and any other information claimants may need to file claims will be placed on the SCO's Web site located at [www.sco.ca.gov/ard\\_mancost.html](http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_mancost.html).

If you have any questions concerning mandated cost reimbursements, please write to us at the address listed for filing claims, or by e-mail to [LRSDAR@sco.ca.gov](mailto:LRSDAR@sco.ca.gov), or call the Local Reimbursements Section at (916) 324-5729.

### **17. Retention of Claim Records and Supporting Documentation**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 17558.5, (a), a reimbursement claim for actual costs filed by SD's is subject to the initiation of an audit by the Controller no later than three years after the date that the actual reimbursement claim was filed or last amended, whichever is later. However, if no funds were appropriated or no payment was made to a claimant for the program for the fiscal year for which the claim was filed, the time for the Controller to initiate an audit will commence to run from the date of initial payment of the claim. In any case, an audit will be completed not later than two years after the date that the audit was commenced.

All documents used to support the reimbursable activities must be retained during the period subject to audit. If the Controller has initiated an audit during the period subject to audit, the retention period is extended until the ultimate resolution of any audit findings. Supporting documents must be made available to the SCO on request.